

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /026 W
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O 240951Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1591

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE

AMCONSUL ASMARA

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1191

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS

SUBJECT: CISCO 3 - PROPOSED DEPARTMENT STATEMENT

REF: STATE 098179

1. PARTICULARLY SHOULD BOTH PLF AND ELF RELEASE AMERICAN HOSTAGES, BELIEVER PROPOSED STATEMENT BY DEPT SPOKESMAN NOTED PARA 3 REFTEL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE AND CONCEIVABLY HARMFUL. DEPT WILL RECALL ELF WAS INFORMED BY SUDANESE LAST FALL THAT USG WOULD MAKE STATEMENT CONTAINED IN 75 STATE 258218 (PARA 3) WHEN ALL ELF HOSTAGES FREED (STATE 019320). DEPARTURE FROM THIS PROCEDURE, AND NOTABLY REITERATED SPECIFIC DESCRIPTION OF OUR WELL KNOWN ANTI-TERRORISM POLICIES, WOULD NOT ONLY PROVE EMBARRASSING TO GOS AND TO US HERE RBUT MIGHT WELL RAISE QUESTION IN ELF MINDS RE USG CREDIBILITY WHICH COULD RISE TOLGAUNT US SHOULD ANY FURTHER KIDNAPPINGS FROM ASMARA UNHAPPILY OCCUR.

2. WE HAVE, OF COURSE, NO SUCH UNDERSTANDING RE STATEMENT VIS-A-VIS PLF SHOULD ONLY CAMPBELL AND HARRELL BE FREED. BUT IN THAT CASE WE WILL NO DOUBT WISH TAKE PARTICULAR CARE TO AVOID ACTIONS OR STATEMENTS WHICH MIGHT BE VIEWED UNFAVORABLY BZ ELF AND THUS SLOW MOMENTUM FOR RELEASE MICHALKE.

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3. ADDITIONALLY, WE NOT CERTAIN WHETHER IT WOULD BE POLITIC

TO SINGLE OUT CAMPBELLS FOR COMMENDATION WHEN HARRELL AND MICHALKE FAMILIES NO DOUBT EQUALLY INTERESTED IN RELEASE THEIR RELATIVES. SHOULD PLF RELEASE CAMPBELL AND HARRELL SOON, WE BELIEVE THIS WILL BE RESULT NEW SUDANESE INITIATIVE RATHER THAN ARRIVAL LEN AND BRUCE CAMPBELL HERE. MENTION OF LATTER BY DEPARTMENT COULD WELL CONVINCE FAMILIES OF OTHER HOSTAGES NOW OR IN FUTURE THAT THEY SHOULD COME HERE IF RELEASES TO BE ACCOMPLISHED. NOT ONLY IS THAT NOT THE CASE BUT SUCH VISITS COULD MUDDY ALREADY OPAQUE WATERS.

4. IN LIGHT FOREGOING, BELIEVE ANY DEPT PUBLIC STATEMENT SHOULD ADHERE CLOSELY TO THAT SET FORTH PARA 3 OF 75 STATE 258218. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMENTS ALONG LINES PARA 3 STATE REFTEL WOULD POSE NO PROBLEM HERE IF MODIFIED AS FOLLOWS: DEPT SPOKESMAN WOULD PLAN WELCOME RELEASE ACTION, NOTE THAT IT FOLLOWED MANY MONTHS OF UNREMITTING USG EFFORT ON BEHALF ITS CITIZENS WITHIN FRAMEWORK OF OUR WELL-KNOWN ANTI-TERRORISM PLICIES, AND COMMEND THAT CONSTANCY AND DEVOTION OF THE FAMILIES OF THOSE RELEASED WHICH CONTRIBUTED TO THIS HAPPY OUTCOME.
BREWER

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